

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW CAREX FROM ALBERTA.

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[During the summer of 1911 Mr. N. Hollister and Mr. J. H. Riley, while engaged in field work in western Alberta and eastern British Columbia, gathered, in addition to their collections of animals, a series of about two hundred characteristic examples of the plant life of the region. Three of the higher plants represented undescribed species, and diagnoses of them have recently been published.\* The representatives of the difficult genus *Carex* were forwarded to Mr. Kenneth K. Mackenzie of New York City, who has been engaged in the preparation of a monograph of the North American species. While only three species are represented in the collection they are of unusual interest, since one appears to be undescribed and another has rarely been collected. A diagnosis of the new species, prepared by Mr. Mackenzie, is published here at his suggestion.—*Paul C. Standley.*]

***Carex atosquama* Mackenzie, sp. nov.**

Culms in dense clumps, 30 to 45 cm. high, phyllopodic, slender, erect or the apex nodding at maturity, sharply triangular, slightly roughened toward the apex, much exceeding the leaves, purplish-brown tinged and slightly fibrillose at base; leaves with well-developed blades seven to ten to a fertile culm, inserted on the lower fourth, mostly clustered near the base, the blades deep green, flat with slightly revolute margins, 2.5 to 3.5 mm. wide, 10 to 20 cm. long, roughened toward the apex; opaque part of sheaths whitish or yellowish-white; spikes three or four, approximate or the lower slightly separated, the lower one or two on erect peduncles half to twice their length, the others sessile or nearly so, oblong, 6 to 12 mm. long, 5 mm. wide, densely 15 to 30-flowered, the appressed perigynia in several ranks, the lateral spikes pistillate, the terminal

\*Smiths. Misc. Coll. 56: No. 33.

gynaecandrous and clavate at base; lowest bract leaflet-like, slightly sheathing, not purplish tinged, shorter than or exceeding the inflorescence, the others much reduced; scales broadly ovate, obtuse or slightly acute, black, the midvein obsolete, the upper margins not at all or but very slightly hyaline, about the width of but markedly shorter than the perigynia; perigynia olive-green, slightly purplish-spotted, membranaceous, slightly inflated and subtriangular, nerveless, punctulate, narrowly obovoid, 3.25 mm. long, 1.75 mm. wide, glabrous, round-tapering at base, minutely roughened on margins above, abruptly contracted into a minute, shallowly bidentate, purplish-black beak, scarcely 0.5 mm. long; achenes triangular, obovoid, 1.5 mm. long, 0.75 mm. wide, scarcely stipitate, half the length of the perigynia; style little exerted, its base slender; stigmas three, very short.

The type, collected at the head of Smoky River, Alberta, August 5, 1911, by N. Hollister (No. 14), is in the U. S. National Herbarium, No. 622,651. J. H. Riley's No. 61, from South Fork of Moose River, British Columbia, July, 1911, is also to be referred here (U. S. National Herbarium, No. 622,594).

*Carex atrata* L. and several of its close allies, to which the present species is related, are all distinguished by the strongly compressed perigynia, and in all of them the achene is much narrower than the perigynium, the empty part of the latter appearing almost wing-like. The slightly inflated subtriangular perigynium of the present species, which is but little wider than the achene, is in strong contrast to the perigynium of any of these species.